

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 041519
ORIGIN HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00
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DRAFTED BY HA/HR:EOJONES/LJ
APPROVED BY HA/HR:MLSCHNEIDER
NEA/IRN:MLGREENE
H:MR. KENNEY
NEA/IRN:CNAAS

-----053115 162148Z /64

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, IR

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS: AI REACTION TO REPORT TO CONGRESS

REF: TEHRAN 1016

1. IN A CABLE TO DEPUTY SECRETARY, MARTIN ENNALS OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL (AI) REFERRED TO RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS TO CONGRESS AND CONTINUED: "I AM GREATLY DISTURBED BY INFORMATION THAT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL IS QUOTED AS STATING THAT THERE WERE 100,000 POLITICAL PRISONERS IN IRAN. THEREFORE PERSONALLY REQUEST YOU TO ENSURE PUBLIC CORRECTION."

2. ENNALS' REFERENCE, OF COURSE, IS TO PHRASE IN REPORT'S
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PAGE 02 STATE 041519

SECTION 4, "PARTICULARLY ITS ALLEGATION THAT THERE WERE 100,000 POLITICAL PRISONERS." THAT IS OUR MODIFICATION OF YOUR SUGGESTION IN REFTTEL PARA 6.

3. WE CANNOT FIND DIRECT AI REFERENCE TO 100,000 FIGURE. AI'S ANNUAL REPORTS TO 1974-75 AND 1975-76, AS WELL AS

SPECIAL REPORT ON IRAN OF NOVEMBER 1976, REFER TO SUBJECT IN SAME GENERAL WAY. FIRST OF THOSE, FOR EXAMPLE, STATED "THE TOTAL NUMBER OF POLITICAL PRISONERS HAS BEEN REPORTED AT TIMES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR TO BE ANYTHING FROM 25,000 TO 100,000, BUT AI IS NOT ABLE TO MAKE ANY RELIABLE

ESTIMATE." SPECIAL 1976 REPORT SAYS "IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO GIVE A RELIABLE ESTIMATE OF THE NUMBER OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN IRAN DUE TO THE LACK OF DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT ARRESTS AND RELEASES.....ESTIMATES MADE BY FOREIGN JOURNALISTS AND IRANIAN EXILE GROUPS RANGE FROM 25,000 TO 100,000."

4. CANADIAN EMBASSY PROVIDED US WITH COPY OF FEBRUARY 8, 1977 CABLE FROM CANADIAN EMBASSY TEHRAN WHICH STATES: "FOR EXAMPLE, IT IS SURELY RIDICULOUS TO CONTEND (AS AI DID ONLY LAST NOV) THAT THERE WERE AS MANY AS 250,000 POLITICAL PRISONERS IN IRAN. IT IS TRUE THAT AI LATER REDUCED THIS FIGURE TO 100,000 AND THAT THEY HAVE LATELY COME DOWN TO WHAT IS PROBABLY A REALISTIC FIGURE OF AROUND 3,000.

5. DO YOU HAVE A DIRECT AI REFERENCE TO 100,000? IF YOU DO NOT AND IF WE UNABLE TO UNCOVER ANYTHING IN CONTINUING SEARCH, WE ARE CONSIDERING A LETTER TO APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES POINTING OUT THE ERROR AND ASKING THAT THE OFFENDING SENTENCE BE CHANGED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 041519

IN FUTURE PRINTINGS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS TO READ: "THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN WAS IRRITATED BY AMNESTY'S CRITICISMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS IN IRAN, AND WOULD NOT COOPERATE WITH THAT ORGANIZATION." VANCE

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